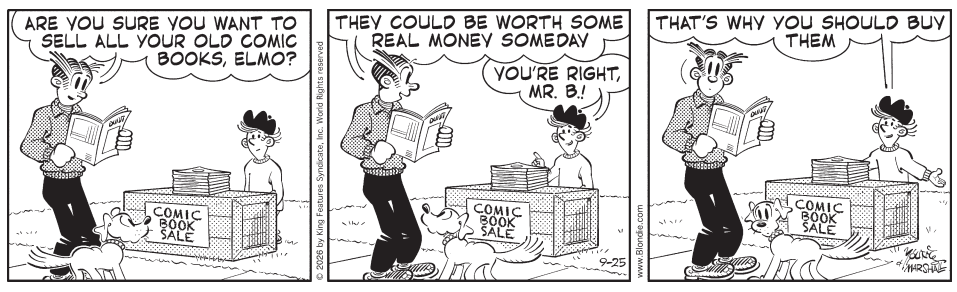
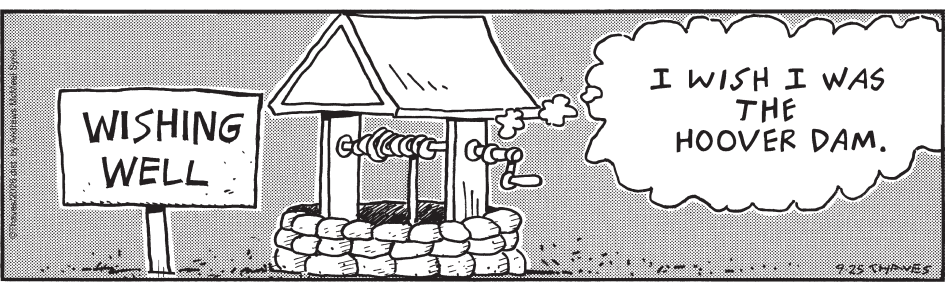
Garfield

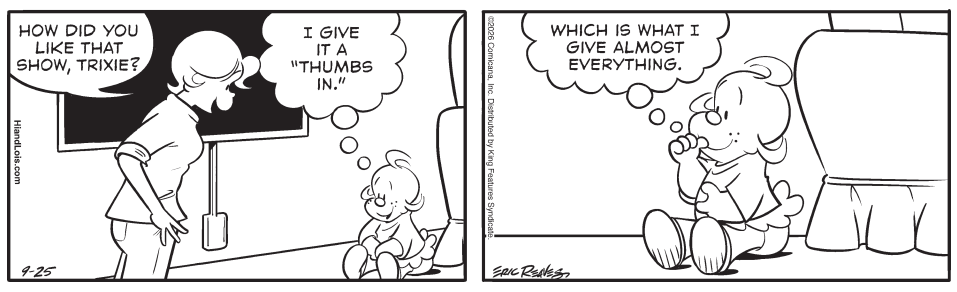
Blondie



Frank & Ernest

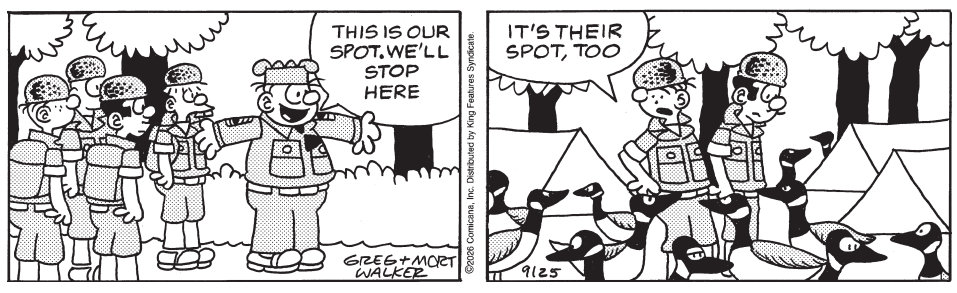


Hi & Lois



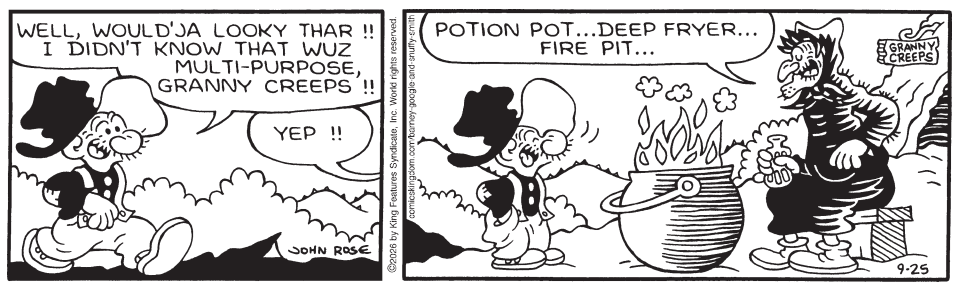
Born Loser

Beetle Bailey

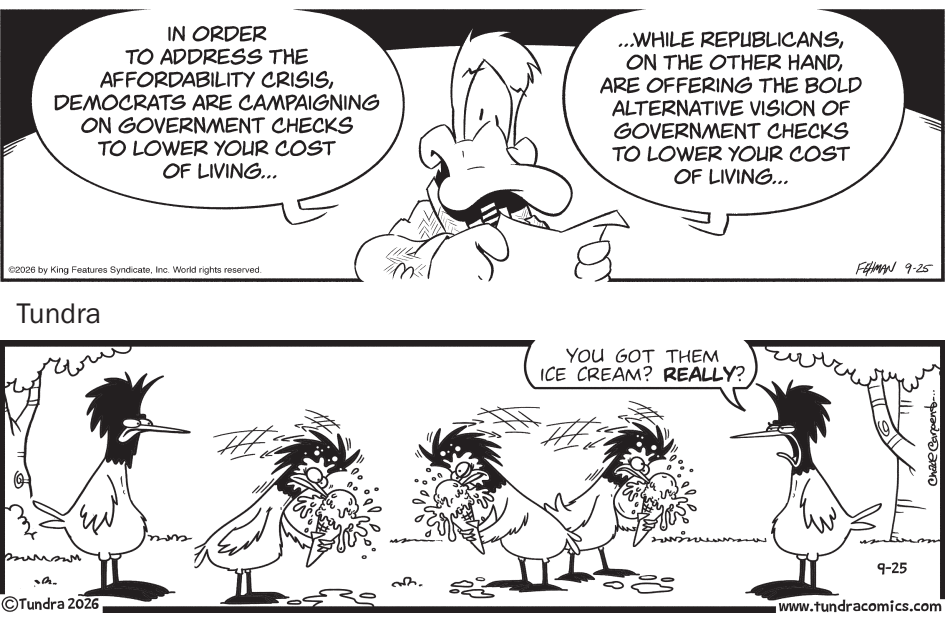


Baby Blues

Snuffy Smith



Mallard Fillmore



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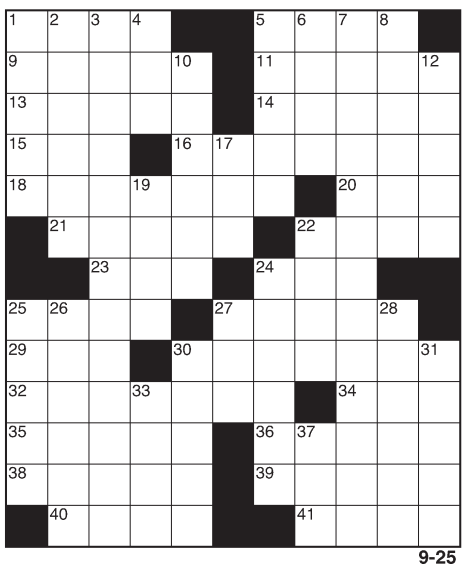
Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

G	A	R	B	■	■	O	H	G	O	D
O	N	A	I	R	■	M	O	A	N	A
T	O	R	T	E	■	A	R	L	E	S
I	R	E	■	T	A	R	N	I	S	H
T	A	R	G	E	T	■	■	L	I	E
■	■	■	E	L	L	S	■	E	E	R
■	C	E	L	L	■	O	D	E	S	■
C	A	M	■	S	A	M	E	■	■	■
U	N	E	■	■	T	A	R	M	A	C
T	A	R	H	E	E	L	■	O	W	E
E	S	S	A	Y	■	I	O	W	A	N
S	T	O	R	E	■	A	V	E	R	T
T	A	N	K	S	■	■	A	D	D	S

Yesterday's answer

ACROSS
1 Baylor setting
5 Fighting females
9 Clickable pix
11 Honolulu hello
13 Hunker down
14 Where Joan of Arc was tried
15 Groan inducer
16 Turned red, perhaps
18 Tot watchers
20 Due follower
21 Car quartet
22 Snake sound
23 Pay stub line
24 Frank holder
25 Sty group
27 Small dents
29 Crunch targets
30 Humiliating failures
32 Puts back on the payroll
34 Wish undone
35 Dancer Castle
36 Skip the ceremony
38 Long attack
39 Conclude successfully
40 Mimics
41 African serpents

DOWN
1 Bits of smoke
2 Find not guilty
3 Sleep aid, of a sort
4 Words before tear or dare
5 Becomes twisted
6 Soothing stuff
7 "Mr. Jones" band
8 Translucent curtains
10 Block border
12 Llama's land
17 Form 1040 org.
19 "— bien!"
22 Attila's men
24 Judicial no-nos
25 Louvre location
26 European peninsula
27 Conk out
28 Enhance, as an engine
30 Lets loose
31 Oozes
33 "Picnic" playwright
37 Pasture



9-25

Bridge – By Steven Becker

Bidding quiz

You deal and bid One Diamond. Partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?
1. ♠K8 ♥AQ62 ♦KQJ73 ♣A4
2. ♠KJ74 ♥873 ♦AKQJ5 ♣10
3. ♠AQ ♥92 ♦AKQ1083 ♣A85
4. ♠AK96 ♥QJ7 ♦AKJ82 ♣ 4

* * *

1. Four hearts. There should be no doubt about game after partner responds one heart, and the best way to get there is by raising directly to four. It's not easy to construct a hand where partner won't have a good chance for 10 tricks.

With 19 high-card points plus the added value of the heart fit — worth another two points or so — facing at least six points, you can feel certain that the partnership assets exceed those ordinarily needed for game. Four hearts is not a signoff. It encourages partner to try for slam.

The main trap to avoid is a raise to only three hearts, since partner can pass that bid. It would also be wrong to bid four notrump (Blackwood), which might get you overboard if partner has a dead minimum.

2. One spade. This rebid is ambiguous — it may be based on a minimum opening bid or a hand much better than that (up to 18 points) — but it is far better to bid one spade than either two diamonds or two hearts. If the opportunity for you to support hearts arises later on, partner will learn inferentially that you are short in clubs, which may help him select the best contract.

3. Three notrump. Partner has at least six points for his one-heart response, which should give you enough for a game in notrump. With eight tricks all but assured in your own hand, it is not overly optimistic to think partner will provide one. A three-diamond rebid by you — which partner can pass — comes nowhere close to picturing the potential of your hand for game or even a slam.

4. Two spades. This bid — a jump-shift — is 100% forcing. It says, in effect, that game is likely even if partner's one-heart bid was based on only six points. The ultimate destination of the hand is not yet clear — the final contract may be a game or slam in spades, hearts, diamonds or notrump.

There are two objections to a bid of only one spade over one heart. First, there is the possibility that partner may pass (a non-jump bid in a new suit by opener is not forcing), and that is certainly not desirable when you have such excellent prospects for game. Second, and perhaps even more important, if there is a slam in the offing, the opportunity to get there may be lost because of the failure to identify that possibility immediately.

Tomorrow: Choosing the right line of play.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH ● ANACRONYMS: ONCE AN ACRONYM NOW A WORD

L E B X U R O L I E B Y V S Q
N K G H E N B Y W T R O L J G
N C E Y B A E Y W U K R P N K
I A G D W B R B Z X A V S Q O
M N R A I I E K I G R E C A Y
W O A T H S S U S G T Q P N L
J L D H R C A Y F R M E C A Y
X A A V U O T U W O A S Q P N
M S R B K T F P J B F N H F E
C E A B Z U Y X A Y V I O U T
R R Q R A S A U Q C P O F S M

Thursday's unlisted clue: RAINBOW

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: AMERICA'S RAIL SYSTEM

Canola	Fifo	Quasar	Sonar
Captcha	Fortran	Radar	Taser
Cyborg	Laser	Scotus	Wysiwyg
Ebitda	Nabisco	Scuba	

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9/25

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES – HERE'S HOW TO WORK IT:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-25 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

D W N H B G Y F F Z I Q F F , C Y

E Q D N Y H D G N D W Q F F , Q H O

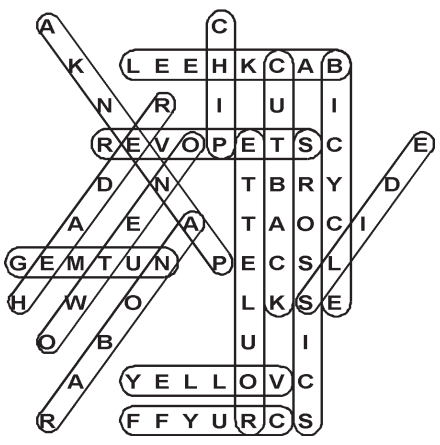
D P M D Z I N H O D W Y L Z Z O N H

Q F F . — X K W Q X X Q O Q F N

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IMAGINATION ALLOWS YOU TO BEND THE RULES OF THE TEMPORAL WORLD. — AMY SHERALD

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

SOCCER MOVES



Horoscope

– By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Friday, Sept. 25, 2026:

You have noble aims. You're sympathetic, perceptive and independent. You like to be straightforward. This year you reap the benefits of all your hard work. Expect power and leadership. It's a time for major decisions and the recognition of your accomplishments. Promotions, kudos and awards might come your way.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★ Tread carefully today because the Sun is opposite Neptune in your sign, which can make things confusing. You might think you know what's going on, but actually you either don't have the right facts or you're on the wrong page. And it's probably not your fault. Tonight: Pleasant solitude.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ Today has a lot of misleading energy. In one way, you feel confident and ready to talk to bosses and people in authority and state your opinions. Yet in the next moment, you might find yourself second-guessing yourself. Worse yet, you might be misinformed! Tonight: Friendships.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might feel disappointed with a friend or a member of a group today. Perhaps your expectations were too high or unrealistic. For that matter, you might not have even expressed your expectations. Be aware that people notice you today. Demonstrate grace under pressure. Tonight: Be modest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Communications with parents, bosses, VIPs and the police are confusing today. You might not be sure what is expected of you. Or vice versa; they might not know what role they should play. Meanwhile, you do have expectations regarding financial assistance and practical help. Tonight: Explore and learn.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ This is the classic day for confusion and uncertainty. Encounters with others might be demoralizing. You're not sure if you should assert yourself or pull back. Be careful, because you also might be dealing with deception. If you suspect that something fishy is going on, it is! Tonight: Check your finances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Be leery about financial negotiations today. You might not have all the facts, or information you have might be incorrect. This might be accidental or on purpose. Whatever the case, assume nothing. Don't trust anything if it looks too good to be true. Tonight: Be cooperative.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Today the Sun is in your sign opposed by Neptune, which is confusing for your closest relationships. You feel uncertain and perhaps even demoralized. You might want to avoid confrontation rather than risk conflict or a contest. Don't play the victim. Tonight: Get better organized.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ This is a confusing day. In one way you're positive and confident about what is going on, and yet in the next you're confused. This might apply to dealing with a pet, your health or your job. Fortunately, with Venus in your sign, you'll be diplomatic and gracious with everyone. Tonight: Playful activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You might be disappointed in a friend today. If so, ask yourself if you expressed your expectations. Also be aware that there's an element of confusion, so they might misunderstand where you are coming from. Confusion works both ways. Cut others some slack. Tonight: Relax at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ If you're dealing with something important related to instructions from a boss, the government or someone in authority, do your best to clarify the communication, because today confusion is rampant. If you have doubts, speak up. And don't leave others in the dark. Tonight: An interesting conversation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★ Be careful about falling under the sway of someone else's rhetoric or propaganda. Today you might not be sure what to believe. Ironically, at first everything seems clear. But as time goes by you realize you're not sure what's going on. If you feel this way, don't act. Commit to nothing. Tonight: Check your money.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ This is a poor day for financial discussions and important financial decisions. You might not have the correct facts or you might be misinformed. Assume nothing. Do your homework and wait until you feel confident to make a decision. Tonight: You're in charge.

Jumble

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IUDLG

OLMBI

AHTREH

AMNRTA

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ○○○○○○○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRISK HENCE BISHOP MATURE
Answer: Several demanding passengers put the flight attendants under a lot of — CABIN PRESSURE